Flaring of Gas

1507. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flaring of gas has been going on since last several years as reported in the Ahmedabad edition of the Times of India of 3rd July, 1988;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per Tata's Statistical Outline of India (1986-87) page 66, in 1984-85, 3052 million cubic metres of natural gas flared and 4141 million cubic metres was the net production; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to fix responsibility for this national loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) In 1984-85, the total production of natural gas was 7241 million cubic metres out of which 3052 million cubic metres was flared. The percentage of gas flared has come down from 42 per cent in 1984-85 to 30 per cent in 1987-88. The major reasons for flaring of gas are:—

(i) Failure of consumers to lift the committed quantity of gas.

(ii) Mismatch between production and compression facilities in the Western Offshore Region.

2. Following steps have been taken to reduce flaring:—

(i) Compression facilities have been augmented and are proposed to be augmented further.

(ii) Fall back consumers are being encouraged so that they can take the gas when the regular consumers fail to do so. A 15 per cent discount on the basic price of gas for the fall-back consumers is available.

(iii) Additional consumers have been developed in Assam where the offtake by the regular consumers has been very low. Presently the total commitment exceeds production of gas in Assam.

3. As a result of these measures, flaring of gas has been reduced over the last four years.

Anticipated gap between demand and supply of electricity in the Nineties

1508. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated percentage of increase in the demand for electricity in the country in the industrial, agricultural, commercial and domestic sectors separately by the year 1990 and what is the anticipated gap between the demand and supply of electricity in the nineties;

(b) what is the actual percentage of increase achieved in the generation of power, thermal, hydro-electric and atomic as against the targets between 1978-79 and 1987-88;

(c) which of the programmes taken up by Government to augment power supply position in the country during the above period have since been implemented and what is the additional power generated as a result thereof; and

(d) whether Government have analysed the deficiencies, if any, in the energy policies regarding generation and conservation so as to formulate an integrated plan for better results; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.